

## Message Text

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CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DSA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9266

STATE PASS AID/OFDA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, SWEL

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED BY FRANCIS  
ON HIS RETURN FROM VAN.

2. BASIC SITUATION IN EARTHQUAKE STRIKEN REGION OF EASTERN  
TURKEY IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. MAJOR DAMAGE IS CENTERED IN CALDIRON VALLEY OF VAN PROVINCE.  
IN THIS AREA MANY VILLAGES ARE TOTALLY DESTROYED. CALDIRON AND  
MURADIYE TOWNS ARE ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED. ONLY A FEW  
REINFORCED CONCRETE BUILDINGS IN THESE TWO TOWNS ARE STILL STANDING.

B. LESS DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED IN SURROUNDING AREAS OF DIYADIN  
(AGRI PROVINCE), ERCIS AND OZALP. IN THESE AREAS FEW BUILDINGS  
ARE ACTUALLY DOWN, MANY ARE, HOWEVER, STRUCTURALLY WEAKENED.

C. CONSTRUCTION OF WALLS OF TYPICAL HOMES AND FARM BUILDINGS IN  
CALDIRON VALLEY UTILIZES WEAK MORTAR OR MUD. ROOFS ARE DIRT

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PACKED ON TOP OF TIMBERS. EARTHQUAKE SHOOK WALLS APART AND ROOFS

FELL ON THOSE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO BE INSIDE. APPARENTLY MOST EITHER LIVED THROUGH IT OR WERE KILLED OUTRIGHT. RELATIVELY FEW WERE INJURED.

3. IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING QUAKE WAS ALL SELF-HELP. KIZILAY (TURKISH EQUIVALENT OF RED CROSS) APPEARS TO HAVE RESPONDED WELL AND GOTTEN INTO AREA QUICKLY THEREAFTER. KIZILAY RESOURCES ARE LIMITED BUT THEIR SMALL LIGHTWEIGHT CONICAL TENTS LITERALLY EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT REGION. IN MOST HEAVILY DAMAGED VILLAGES PEOPLE REMAINING IN AREA ARE LIVING IN THESE TENTS WHILE THEY DIG IN THE RUBBLE OF THEIR FORMER HOMES. IN NEARBY LESS DAMAGED AREAS REFUGEES FROM VILLAGES WHICH WERE TOTALLY DESTROYED APPEAR TO BE CAMPING NEAR HOMES OF FRIENDS OR RELATIVES.

4. INTERNATIONAL AID HAS COME IN FROM LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. USAF ALCE HAS DONE OUTSTANDING JOB OF BRINGING THESE PLANES IN SAFELY AND IN UNLOADING THEM EXPEDITIOUSLY. ALL TURKISH OFFICIALS ARE SINCERELY APPRECIATIVE OF ALL FORMS OF US ASSISTANCE. RELIEF SUPPLIES ARE TURNED OVER TO TURKISH OFFICIALS AT AIRHEAD. KIZILAY AND TURKISH ARMY ARE MANAGING THIS FOR GOT. I HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE THEIR RECORDS. I BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE SMALLER ITEMS OF THESE RELIEF SUPPLIES FROM MANY SOURCES ARE BEING DIVERTED THROUGH INDIVIDUAL APPROPRIATION BY SOLDIERS AND TRUCK DRIVERS OF VARIOUS ITEMS. IN THIS REGARD IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THESE SUPPLIES FOR THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS ARE FREQUENTLY BETTER THAN WHAT THE INDIVIDUALS HANDLING THEM POSSESS. I HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF WHOLESALE DIVERSION OF ANY ITEMS AS YET. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, RUMORS OF SUCH.

5. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND DISORGANIZATION AMONG SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIALS. INCREASINGLY, THIRD CORPS COMMANDER LTGEN AYSUN SEEMS TO BE CENTRAL COORDINATOR. NEXT MOST IMPORTANT FIGURE APPEARS TO BE MINISTER OF RECONSTRUCTION. NUMEROUS OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS COME AND GO IN THE AREA AND COORDINATION AND STAFF WORK IS STILL NOT PERFECT. IT IS, HOWEVER, IMPROVING.

6. SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE VERY POLITE AND CORRECT IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH ME BUT ARE NOT WILLING (OR ARE UNABLE) TO PROVIDE ME WITH VERY MANY HARD FACTS. FROM TIME TO TIME THEY HAVE TOLD ME THINGS WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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TURNED OUT NOT TO BE TRUE.

7. PEOPLE OF AREA ARE MOSTLY KURDISH. ACCORDING TO FIGURES PROVIDED TO ME BY OFFICIALS ON THE SCENE, 60,000 PEOPLE ARE IN THE GENERAL AREA. THEY ARE PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN RAISING LIVESTOCK. THE SAME SOURCES STATE THAT THERE ARE 150,000 CATTLE AND 450,000 SHEEP/GOATS IN THE AREA. PEOPLE WISH TO REMAIN IN THEIR VILLAGE AREAS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO UTILIZE FEED STOCKPILED

THERE AND THUS BE ABLE TO FEED THEIR ANIMALS THROUGH THE WINTER. BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE, HOWEVER, THEY LACK SHELTER FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR LIVESTOCK. THEY ALSO WANT TO REMAIN IN THEIR VILLAGES IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR CLAIM TO THEIR LANDS.

8. GOT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT CAN PROVIDE SUFFICIENT ASSISTANCE TO REMOTE VILLAGES AND WOULD PREFER THAT PEOPLE MOVE INTO TENT AREAS BEING CONSTRUCTED ALONG ROADS WHICH GOT BELIEVES CAN BE KEPT OPEN FOR MOST OF WINTER. US SUPPLIED TENTS ARE BEING USED IN THESE AREAS. AT THE PRESENT TIME, VERY FEW PEOPLE HAVE MOVED INTO THESE CENTERS. WEATHER IS UNSEASONABLY MILD AND GOT BELIEVES PEOPLE WILL MOVE WHEN HEAVY SNOW AND COLD FORCES THEM OUT OF THEIR PRESENT INADEQUATE SHELTERS.

9. I HAVE SEEN THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF US-SUPPLIED TENTS ACTUALLY ERECTED IN NUMEROUS SITES IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: CALDIRON - 313; MURADIYE - 130; ERCIS - 160; DIYADIN - NONE; OZALP - 41; VAN - 50; TOTAL - 694. TURKISH OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD ME THAT THERE ARE 50 MORE BEING ERECTED IN VAN, 36 MORE IN DIYADIN, 24 MORE IN OZALP, AND 30 MORE IN ERCIS. ASSUMING THESE LATER FIGURES ARE CORRECT THERE ARE 834 US TENTS ACCOUNTED FOR. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE REMAINING 286 TENTS ARE UNDER CONTROL OF TURKISH MILITARY AND ARE IN RESERVE IN MURADIYE AND CALDIRON.

10. ALL GOT OFFICIALS SAY THAT THEY NEED MORE TENTS AND THEY NEED THEM NOW BEFORE SNOW MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO MOVE THEM INTO TENT AREAS AND SET THEM UP. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN US SUPPLIED TENTS MAY NOT BE ADEQUATE TO PROTECT PEOPLE DURING HARSH WINTER MONTHS BUT THEY SEE NO OPTIONS.

11. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER TO LOCATE THE REMAINING TENTS, ASSIST IN THEIR ERECTION AND ENSURE THAT  
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GOT PLAN IS A FEASIBLE ONE.

12. UNFORTUNATELY I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS. IT IS DECEMBER. I AM TOLD THAT THE MILD WEATHER WE HAVE HAD SINCE MY ARRIVAL IS UNUSUAL. I AM TOLD SOME OF THE STRICKEN VILLAGES THAT WE CAN NOW GET TO WILL SOON BE SNOW BOUND. DEC. 5, I WAS UNABLE TO DRIVE FROM DIYADIN TO STRICKEN VILLAGES NORTH OF CALDIRAN BECAUSE OF DRIFTING SNOW AND POOR ROADS. I AM TOLD THAT SNOW DRIFTS OF TWO METERS IN STRICKEN AREA ARE NOT UNUSUAL.

13. I RECOMMEND THAT WE MOVE ONE THOUSAND GENERAL PURPOSE SMALL TENTS WITH LINERS. (PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THAT TENTS ARE COMPLETE WITH LINERS) TO INCIRLIK IMMEDIATELY. I RECOMMEND FURTHER THESE TENTS REMAIN UNDER U.S. OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL AT INCIRLIK. I REQUEST

PERMISSION TO INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN VAN THAT THIS HAS BEEN  
DONE AND THAT I WILL COORDINATE THE CALL FORWARD  
OF THE TENTS TO  
VAN WITH THEM TO INSURE PROPER ACCOUNTING AND UTILIZATION.  
14. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF EMBASSY AND JUSMMAT WOULD INFORM  
MINISTRY OF RECONSTRUCTION AND TGS THAT WE HAVE MOVED THESE TENTS  
TO INCIRLIK AND THAT GOT OFFICIALS IN VAN SHOULD COORDINATE  
THEIR MOVEMENT INTO VAN WITH ME. PLEASE ASK THEM TO ASSIST ME BY  
PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT PLANS AND UTILIZATION OF OUR RELIEF  
SUPPLIES.  
MACOMBER

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